

REMARKS

Claims 6-10 have been allowed. Claims 1-5 have been previously canceled. The specification has been objected to for not including an abstract of the disclosure. Sheets 1-3, which include Figs. 1-6 have not been received.

Objection to the specification

The Office Action states that the specification has been objected to for not including an abstract of the disclosure. As discussed below, the application did include an abstract and the statement that the abstract was not included is incorrect for the reasons stated below. Nevertheless, the specification has been amended to replace the existing abstract of the disclosure to remove the reference characters in the original abstract. Applicants submit that this objection is now overcome.

Applicant's note that the present application is a U.S. National Stage application of International Application No. PCT/DE03/02891, a published pamphlet version of which was included in the filing papers of this national stage application. The abstract appears on the cover sheet of the published pamphlet version of the PCT application. As stated in MPEP §1893.03(e) (emphasis added):

When the international application is published as the pamphlet, the abstract is reproduced on the cover page of the publication, even though it appears on a separate sheet of the international application in accordance with PCT Rule 11.4(a). Thus the requirement of 37 C.F.R. §1.52(b) that the abstract "commence on a separate sheet" does not apply to a copy of the application (pamphlet) communicated to the designated Offices by the International Bureau under PCT Article 20. Accordingly, it is improper for the examiner of the U.S. national stage application to require the applicant to provide an abstract commencing on a separate sheet if the abstract does not appear on a separate sheet in the pamphlet.

Therefore, the present national stage application did include an Abstract and the filing of the original Abstract on a separate sheet was not necessary.

The Drawings

The Office Action states that sheets 1-3, which include Figs. 1-6 are missing from the application. Sheets 1-3, which include Figs. 1-6 are submitted herewith. These drawings are the drawings from the International Application and do not constitute new matter.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and withdrawal of all rejections, and allowance of all pending claims is respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner have any comments, questions, suggestions, or objections, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned in order to facilitate reaching a resolution of any outstanding issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: June 11, 2007